

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 21, 2000

LB 1405

done at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, how this would be treated. It would be managed, it would be spun, it would be characterized, it would be refuted, people who were opposed would be put down and I just don't think that's the right approach. I think we have here a critical failure of governance. And I want to remind you that there's a history of this dysfunctional misbehavior. Native American remains defiled, mishandled--no, no, no, no, for months no, no, no. And then, oh yes, that's right. We don't see the progress in gender equity and racial equity that we want. We have to move in and apply pressure, that's regarded as a minimum, not a prod that should move people to new progressive, joyful involvement, but that's regarded as a minimum that everybody ought to complain about. Well let's look at the facts here. And I've spent a lot of time studying the facts, and I think there are some that maybe are not so apparent to all of us, and I think they ought to be apparent to every interested citizen. The testimony before the committee was that Dr. Gendelman was recruited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1993, and it was known that he did fetal tissue research and he was recruited for that research. Now it is not a great leap then for everyone to understand that, if you recruit someone to do fetal tissue research, they will need a source of fetal tissue. What has not been apparent to anybody, and I myself was surprised, was that that entire effort, according to one of the university's own web sites, was paid for Nebraska tax dollars. We've been spinning this, you know, as if it was federal money. Sorry, that's not the fact. The straight, blunt fact is that the process was begun with the Nebraska Research Initiative, \$12 million yearly appropriation by this body. And the million of that money goes to the University Medical Center, and in report after report to this body, that apparently nobody has cared to read, it is pointed out that Dr. Gendelman's salary and laboratory and so forth are being supported in part by those monies through the present time. I think that's an issue that involves the taxpayer of Nebraska. At the hearing before the Judiciary Committee we raised the issue, and now I see it's being talked about. Dr. Carhart was given faculty status. No, he's given no consideration, no, he doesn't get paid. Well, I accept that, I guess, as far as I know now that he doesn't get paid. But I will suggest to you that consideration is giving something to someone which is of value in return for something. And I will